

# Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Website: www.arubatoday.com

Friday, February 27, 2009



Price of a barrel  
of petroleum  
today:

US\$ 45.22

INSIDE TODAY  
U.S. NEWS

## THE DISTRICT



Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty walks on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009. The Senate passed the District of Columbia House Voting Right Acts, 61-37, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## SPORTS NEWS

## 20/20 VISION



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard dunks the ball against the New York Knicks during an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

See Sports Today

## U.S. Marshals visit Aruba's Prime Minister



ORANJESTAD - On Thursday morning, the Prime Minister of Aruba Nelson Oduber received a courtesy visit from two U.S. Marshals from the Police Force of New York and New Jersey. U.S. Marshal Ron Sepe and his wife together with U.S. Marshal Alan Sierchio and his wife visited the Prime Minister's

office accompanied by Richard Kramers of the Aruban Police Department. The Marshals brought U.S. Marshal flannel and cap a souvenirs for P.M. Oduber who in turn gave each Marshal a symbol of Aruba's freedom. The Marshals and their families are enjoying their stay on our "dushi" and island of Aruba. □

## Four Happy Winners of the "Swipe & Win" Campaign of RBTT Bank!



ORANJESTAD - Recently RBTT Bank held a very successful credit card campaign. Clients who swiped their RBTT credit card during the month of December, participated in a campaign to win fabulous prizes like flat screen televisions, microwaves, dryers and washing machines.

The four happy winners of this campaign were, Patricia Richardson, Henny Balentin, Edwin Leung and Alexander Leijenaar. They were all very

happy, surprised and very excited that amongst all the participants they won. All the winners were invited to RBTT Bank Head Office, so as to be presented with their prize.

To determine which participants won what prize, the winners pulled numbers from a hat.

RBTT Bank took the opportunity to congratulate all the winners with their beautiful prizes. On the pictures we can see: Robert



Moons (Manager Marketing, Edwin Leung, Joainila Lacle (Assistant Branch Manager Noord Branch), Elaine Geerman (Customer

Service Representative), Patricia Richardson, Henny Balentin, Alexander Leijenaar and Giovanni Croes (Retail Banking Manager Sales). □

Premium Chicken Line  
Crispy or Grilled



©2008 McDonald's Corporation



**100%  
OWNERSHIP!**

**ACQUA**  
CONDOMINIUMS  
ARUBA

**INVEST  
NOW!**

UP TO **29% DISCOUNT**

→ **1% INTEREST PER MONTH ON YOUR INVESTMENT** ←

CONTACT US FOR THIS CONSTRUCTION  
PERIOD DISCOUNT OFFER!

+ (297) 525 25 25

## Thriving Herb Garden at Larimar Spa



PALM BEACH – Larimar Spa, at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa grows its own herbs, on the side of its beautiful facility, right on Palm Beach. The herb beds serve a triple purpose: they are very decorative and fragrant,

and they inspire the creation of all naturals massage oils, aromatherapies, exfoliations and scrubs.

The garden also grows Aloe, an essential component of the spa's famed Aloe Vera and Rum Massage and the Mellow

### Aloe Wrap.

Last but not least, says Director of Spa Services Bruce Cavan the abundant and flourishing herb garden of Larimar Spa supplies the resort's 4-diamond rated American steakhouse, the Sunset Grille with a cornucopia of fresh lemon grass, parsley, chives, sage, thyme, rosemary and mint, also serving the resort bars for the preparation of delicious Cuban Mojitos.

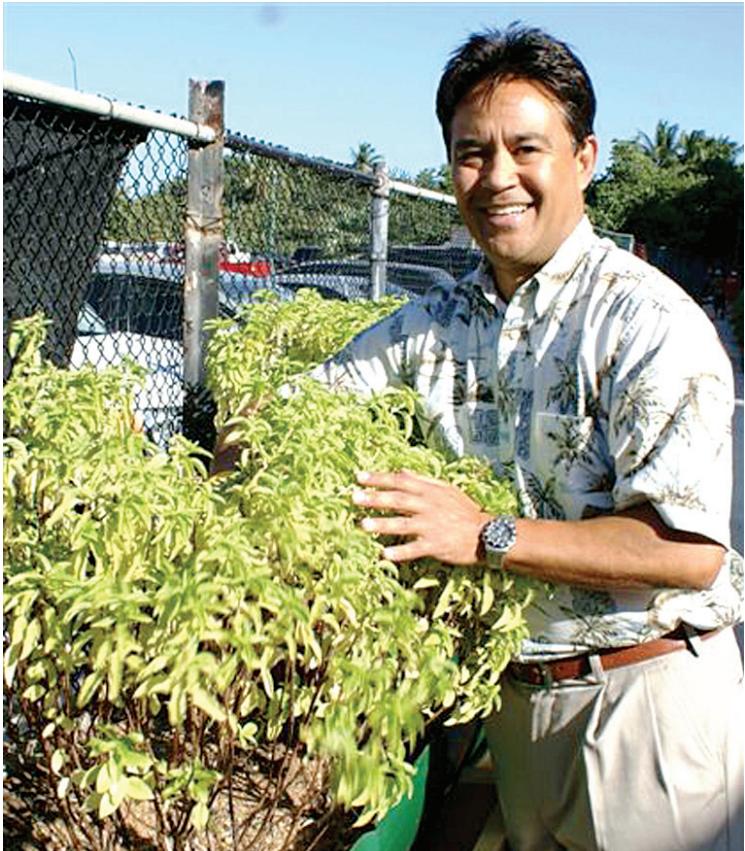
Cavan reports he started experimenting with soil and seeds when Larimar Spa first opened a number of years ago.

Assisted by enthusiastic gardeners, Larimar Spa's herb garden thrived, sheltered from wind & kissed by the sun. The fresh herbs were welcomed with great appreciation in the kitchen where executive chef Hector Espinoza reports that once you go fresh, you never look back.

Previously dependent on the availability of fresh herbs from suppliers Espinoza is also applauding Cavan for his future initiatives which include growing tomatoes and a few delicate varieties of salad greens.

Next time you have an aromatherapy massage or Aloe-anything at Larimar spa, you can rest assured that the fragrant ingredients are home-grown, and the rum made here!

For visitors, Larimar spa also offers Larimar Spa vacation packages which include: Accommodations, Spa treatments, and a welcome martini. Named on the Condé Nast Traveler HOT LIST, Larimar Spa provides



the perfect sanctuary from stress, worries and the hectic every day life back home. Larimar Spa offers a variety of massages, advanced skin care therapies, exfoliating, nourishing and detoxifying body treatments, in 13,000 square feet of indulgence with nine treatment rooms, a full service salon, and state-of-the-art fitness center. □





PRESENTS THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY'S  
THE HOTTEST  
HAPPY HOUR IS BACK



FIND US AT PASEO HERENCIA MALL ARUBA TEL: 5868443

*For the Best Ribs, Chicken, burgers and much more*

## Cactus Jack's has the best deal on the Hi-Rise strip



PALM BEACH - No dress code, just a roll of Scotch towel and a tiny, fuzzy cactus providing a bit of flora on the wooden tables: that is Cactus Jack's, the more-than-a-little relaxed new restaurant on the hotel Hi-Rise strip. Manager Ashwin Engelhart (28) and his team are ready for action and judging from the few busy days behind them after their

doors opened, they are on the road to success. The secret of Cactus Jack's lies in the words plentiful, affordable and fun. This goes for food as well as for drinks: various beer brands vie for attention with the frozen cocktails and non-frozen cocktails. A smoothie costs just US \$ 5--. Heineken even provides kegs with 20 glasses of draught; a great way



to celebrate a birthday with a group of friends.

The concept of the new restaurant, which is located in The Village across from the Radisson Resort, next to ChinoLatino Restaurant, may be described as family-oriented; guests can roll in after a long day of the beach dressed in bikini tops or shorts, or, if they want, in evening dress. Anything goes. Take-out is also one of Cactus Jack's possibilities, by the way. Starters are true American favorites: Over Loaded Potato Skins, Screaming Shrimp, a Sampler, Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Tenders and Wild Buffalo Wings. The Soups & Salads include a Baked Potato Soup, an Onion Soup, a Honey BBQ Chicken Salad, a Caesar Salad and a Green Salad. The ribs, chicken and burgers, however, are what Cactus Jack's is all about: try the rotisserie Chicken, half or whole, honey smothered Ribs, various burgers, among them the Smokin' BBQ Burger, a Signature burger and a Crispy Onion burger. The half/half combo of Ribs and Rotisserie Chicken is already a top three combination.

But there is more: shrimp skewers, grilled Mahi Mahi, the Catch of the Day and Cod, English style. Sirloin Steak, Filet Mignon and combinations of the above mentioned number among the possibilities. Side orders are just US \$ 3--; the listed desserts are ice cream, key lime pie, a brownie and chocolate pie. Chef Marcel and his kitchen team guarantee that you won't leave his place hungry! Cactus Jack's is open from 5 to 11 pm. Cactus Jack's phone number (586-7592). □



## FRIDAYS SPECIAL!



☺ KIDS EAT FREE!  
(up to 10 years old)

...FRESH FISH CAUGHT DAILY  
BY THE OWNER HIMSELF.

A long tradition of serving the finest  
**Seafood & Steaks**  
for over 20 years!



Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Tuesdays)  
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.  
[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**NOTICE:**

Casino chips with old Aruba Marriott Sail Boat Logo can be cashed out at the Casino Cage until July 1, 2009.

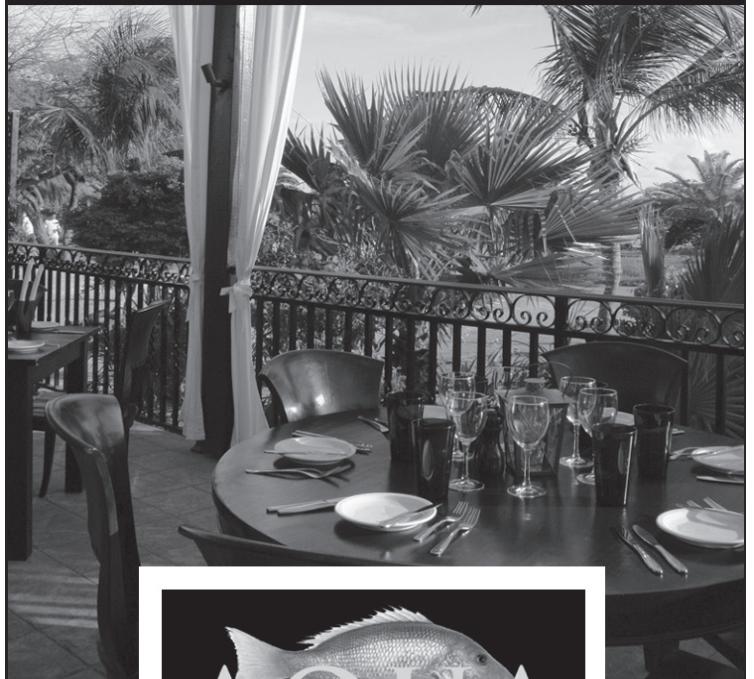
No chip exchange is possible after July 1, 2009

*Visiting Aruba For 10 Consecutive Years*

## Diane & Mark Pasik Honored As Distinguished Guests At Aruba Marriott



"This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers"  
Fodor's Travel Guide



### Experience Aruba's Seafood Sensation!

*Chic New England décor • New al fresco terrace*

For reservations: 297-586-5900  
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 374 Across from Hyatt Resort,  
next door to Amazonia Churrascaria  
[WWW.AQUA-GRILL.COM](http://WWW.AQUA-GRILL.COM)

PALM BEACH - Recently, at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino, Diane and Mark Pasik were acknowledged with the "Distinguished Guests of Aruba" title by the Aruba Tourism Authority. As a loyal Marriott guest and owner at Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, Diane and Mark Pasik from Sterling Heights, Michigan have been visiting Aruba for ten years.

Their first visit to Aruba was in 1999 and they have been in love with Aruba ever since.

Reasons such as the warmth and friendliness of the people, beautiful weather, great hang outs (Sopranos and Moomba Beach) make them come back year after year to Aruba. Mark is a big fan of diving and considers Aruba to be his favorite place to dive and along the way he has made friends who share that passion for diving.

The honoring took place in the recently renovated Lobby of the Aruba Marriott Resort. Present at this special occasion were: Ms. Maritza

Lacle of ATA, Karin Swiers, Marketing Communications Manager Aruba Marriott and two Dutch diving friends of Diane and Mark Pasik. A champagne toast was made to the honorees, who were then presented with a commemorative plaque by Ms. Maritza Lacle of ATA. Designated among the "World's Best Places to Stay" by Conde Nast Traveler's 2006 Gold List, Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large, private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 888-PARADISE or visit [www.arubamarriott.com](http://www.arubamarriott.com) □



WIN AT CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS

# 3 CARS IN 1 CARNIVAL WEEKEND!



**PREMEHANDERPERSAD  
NAIDJNATH MISIER**

February 21st, 2009

Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



**LORENZO  
PADULLA**

February 21st, 2009

Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**FORD MUSTANG**

casino:  
**CRYSTAL CASINO**



**MAREK T.  
ZAWADZKI**

February 22nd, 2009

Mystery Bonus Jackpot:  
**SUZUKI SWIFT**

casino:  
**SEAPORT CASINO**



ONLY POSSIBLE AT

**CRYSTAL & SEAPORT CASINOS!**

# The Excelsior Casino Winner's Circle



Everyone is a winner at the Excelsior Casino. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility.

The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports

betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can be dealt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out. □



A MEAL WORTH ITS  
WEIGHT IN GOLD,  
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE  
PRICED THAT WAY.

CHEF'S SELECTIONS FOR TWO: \$99

ENJOY 2 THREE-COURSE MEALS WITH 5 ENTRÉE CHOICES.

AVAILABLE SUNDAY - THURSDAY



LOCATED AT THE ARUBA MARRIOTT RESORT | 520.6600

101 L.G. SMITH BLVD.

OPENING HOURS 5:30 - 11:00 PM

RESERVATIONS AT RUTHSCHRIS.COM OR BY CALLING DIRECT DAILY AFTER 1:00PM

## Buccaneer RESTAURANT

Buccaneer Restaurant is an island tradition for over 25 years that serve creative dishes prepared with a European touch with irresistible secret flavorings which continue to lure guests back, again and again. Feast on fresh Caribbean catch in one of the cozy booths with a view of an aquarium at each seat, surrounded by tropical splendor and nautical decor. Our second dining room resembles an underwater cave, complete with a 7,500 gallon saltwater aquarium, unseen elsewhere. Our friendly staff is here to give you the "Welcome Aboard" feeling and the chef-owner will personally take care of you.

Located at Gasparito 11-C, between low and high rise hotels.

Closed on Sundays –  
serving dinners  
from 5:30 -10:00pm  
Phone: 297-586-6172

WITH THIS AD A  
FREE GLASS  
OF HOUSEWINE



*Company to Restructure and Continue Renovations and Timeshare Sales*

## Management Change Announced at The Aruban Resort

EAGLE BEACH -- The Aruban Resort & Casino at Eagle Beach announced yesterday a management change.

"The Company is reviewing the operations at the resort and is planning a restructure. We look forward to continuing the renovation of the property and The Aruban Casino. Timeshare sales will continue under new leadership," said a Company spokesperson.

"The Company is committed to the project, despite unprecedented challenges in the financial markets, as well as in tourism and gaming," the spokesperson added.

The spokesperson assured that the new management is committed to work towards solving all problems that the Company has encountered the last days.

### About The Aruban Resort & Casino at Eagle Beach

The Aruban includes a 362-Villa Hotel and Timeshare Resort, a 65,000-square-foot permanent casino called The Aruban Casino, a temporary casino and restaurant, and recreational amenities. In addition to completely renovating and upgrading each one-, two- and three-bedroom condominium suites,

The Aruban is redesigning and renovating The Aruban Casino into a state-of-the-art gaming, entertainment, sports

bar, restaurant and convention facility. When completed, The Aruban Casino will be one of the largest in the Caribbean.



## 15% discount

Bring this ad at the Box-Office of the CRYSTAL Theater at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and get 15% discount. Box-office open from 02pm till 09pm from Monday through Saturday.

**RENAISSANCE.  
RESORT**

## HAVANA Dance

*The New 2009 Production of the Let's Go Latin!*

The elegant Crystal Theater sparkles with all the excitement of Las Vegas as the magnificent

**HAVANA Dance** takes the stage.

A thrilling mix of Latin/Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy modern/traditional Cuban dance.

**HAVANA Dance** is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean featuring true Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana.

Don't miss it!

Show time: Tuesday - Saturday at 9pm

Ticket Price: \$49 / Children under 12 pay \$25

Dinner Show package at L.G. Smith's Steak and Chop House \$89

For reservations and information, please call 583-6000 ext. 6115 (between 9am till 5pm) after 5pm please call 583-6000 ext. 6357 Tickets available at concierge desks and the box office at the Renaissance Resort.

## The hottest Cuban show ticket on the island! SHOW DATES: TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

### HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE



L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

[www.lgsmiths.com](http://www.lgsmiths.com)

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for superb dining in a stylish décor.

**GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS,  
GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES**

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm

Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm

For reservations call 523-6195

Located next to the Crystal Casino



*Seafood as you've not had before*

## Moby Dick's for a Whale of a Good Time

PASEO HERENCIA – Moby Dick's has one mission; to take you to the depths of the blue ocean to taste some of the most exquisite dishes to come from the deep. What a truly beautiful restaurant this is, and what a unique interior to match. The

inside is studded with artwork, amazing glass carvings, and both floors are dominated by gigantic fountains, with water running from ceiling to floor along multicoloured lit fibre optic cables. The stairway is lined by an impressive painting which



For More information  
and Reservations

Call: 586 8333

Beachside Dining in that 'just right' atmosphere  
**Sunset & Dinner at Matthew's tonight**



Located at Casa del Mar resort in Eagle Beach, Matthew's is the brain child of Stefan Legger, who owned and operated Rumba Bar & Grill for 6 years. Matthew's redefines the concept of a beachside restaurant, delivering an exquisite blend of fine dining and comfort food with that 'sand on your toes' feeling. The staff is extremely friendly and demonstrate very clearly that they are there for one thing; you.

Also being a very wanted venue for events and weddings, it very advisable to call and make a reservation, but if you want to just give it a go, no problem. Matthew's has a great bar which



will keep you abreast of all the action, whether it's sports on one of their 3 TV's, or what cocktails the bartenders can whip up for you. Besides breakfast, lunch and dinner, Matthew's offers all you can eat spareribs on Tuesdays, Champagne brunch on Sundays and of course their famous daily happy hours with live music at the bar.



Opening Hours  
Daily from 7:30am till 10:00pm

Daily Happy Hours  
Noon - 1:00pm  
4:00pm - 6:00pm (with live music)  
9:00pm - 10:00pm

For Reservations & Information call:  
Tel: 588 7300



Enjoy wonderful cuisine as you dine in this unique American steakhouse with a Caribbean flair.

Two diverse culinary worlds are offered: exotic Caribbean food and cowboy-size servings of USDA-certified Black Angus Beef.

Special offer:  
Pay just 1/2 price for the first bottle of wine any Tuesday from 6-7:30p.m., with a three-course dinner, two persons minimum.



Italian zest for living adds a unique flavor to your dinner at Baci Ristorante. "Bevenuti" to our Old Country piazza.

Special offer:  
Enjoy a free birthday dinner (food only, three-course dinner) with a minimum of four persons – ID required.

**THE WESTIN**  
RESORT  
ARUBA

*A truly unique ambiance for both lunch and dinner*

## Café Rembrandt is the perfect place to relax with great food



Blasting fine dark wood finishes throughout, a patrons table and a fantastic outdoor terrace, café Rembrandt is sure to give you that comfortable and convivial feel. The staff is a solid team with abundant experience, and they all share the love for hospitality. Café Rembrandt has the ambiance of a bar where you can spend an afternoon reading the paper,

while at the same go there for a big night out. Three days a week there is live music, always at the right pace but never too loud.

Café Rembrandt is open for lunch, boasting various Dutch delights, ranging from sandwiches to "bitterballen" (the original Dutch snack) to salads and warm dishes. At night you can sit down both inside and out for

a relaxed dinner. The focus is very much on the right balance between price and quality, ensuring you can eat and drink for local prices. You will discover that the service is quick, but never in a hurry, and most people will stay the entire night. We invite you to come and indulge in that unique atmosphere you will only find at Café Rembrandt.

Open Daily 11AM till late  
Sundays 4PM till late

Located across from Amazonia in the same building as the Hard Rock.  
For Reservations and info call 586 4747 or ask your concierge

# JOLLYPirates

SAIL, SNORKEL,  
SWIM & SWING!

DAILY 9:30-2pm \$55pp  
Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,  
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON SNORKEL

DAILY 3-6pm only \$33pp  
Shorter version of am cruise  
Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

SUNSET SAIL

Mon & Fri 5-7pm only \$27pp  
Open Bar included

\$10 off

Call 586 8107 or 592 7858

Valid only with direct tel. reservation - cannot be combined with other offers. Save \$10 per coupon/per couple for morning cruises. Save \$5 per coupon/per couple for afternoon cruises.



An epicurean delight located in a romantic setting on a sugary sand beach with a golden glow of a sunset as a backdrop.

For the best breakfast buffet on the island, start your day right!

**Discover the island's premier collection of dining options**

For hours of operation and reservations please call tel 297.586.4466



LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN  
SPORTS BOOK  
No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks  
Highest limits in Aruba  
Sports Book opens at 12:30 pm

POKER ROOM  
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL  
7 p.m.  
TEXAS HOLD-EM  
\$4-\$8 LIMIT  
BUY-IN FOR \$30 RECEIVE \$60 IN CHIPS  
MUST PLAY TWO (2) HOURS

Monday \$25 buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed  
Tuesday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed  
Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,000 Guaranteed  
Thursday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed  
Friday \$50 Buy-in \$4,000 Guaranteed  
Saturday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed  
Sunday Free Roll No Entry Fee \$2,000 (at 5pm)  
(Tournaments are subject to change as per Management criteria)

Only Casino in Aruba  
Where dealer stands on Soft 17

# IFA Cook and Taste and a Dutch Favorite



ORANJESTAD -The International Friends of Aruba were invited into the home of Melinda and Theo Gobesz for its popular Cook and Taste series. Melinda treated the group to the Dutch favorite

"erwtensoep" or "snert," an amazing split pea soup. As Melinda shares, "This is the soup for Dutch people; they are crazy about it. And if you doubt the passion of the Dutch, just think about the

soccer World Cup, when they paint themselves and their houses and dogs orange!" Melinda, Hungarian by birth, is no stranger to hearty meals in the form of substantial soups, so she embraced the



chance to make this meal for Cook and Taste. Conscientious of her husband's diet, Melinda devised a lighter, healthier version of the original Dutch Pea Soup, (no fat, no flour, no potatoes), just vegetables and nonfat meat.

For those lucky enough to have a taste, her take on this classic was equally delicious as the original! For more information on IFA, go to [www.ifaruba.com](http://www.ifaruba.com). All nationalities, families and singles welcome. □

## Changes in the water bill of W.E.B. Aruba N.V. concerning the bill of January 2009

<p><b>MARIA ZERE ALKINERE</b> <b>PONTON 1356</b></p>																																						
<p>Oranjestad, Aruba Tel: (297) 525-4200 Fax: (297) 585-7423 Website: <a href="http://www.webaruba.com">www.webaruba.com</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@webaruba.com">info@webaruba.com</a></p>																																						
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\* If you paid the amount "periodo anterior" you owe the "periodo actual!"

Here you can see the debt of previous period(s), what has been paid already and adjustments



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Photo by Julia Renfro

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# Music Review: U2 get moody on 'No Line' CD

By ALEX VEIGA,  
Associated Press Writer

U2, "No Line On The Horizon," (Interscope Records) On the title track of U2's latest album, "No Line On The Horizon," frontman Bono sings "Every night I have the same dream/I'm hatching some plot, scheming some scheme." The Irish rockers' 12th studio album reflects some heavy scheming on the part of the band, and its longtime producers, to mine wider sonic territory that the band has explored since the 1990s. The result is an album that feels more compelling in sound and less strident in message than U2's previous two efforts this decade, which offered some bright spots but seemed crafted

with a U2-by-the-numbers approach.

The achievement of "No Line" is due to the handiwork of U2's recording studio midwives: Brian Eno, Daniel Lanois and Steve Lillywhite, who have had a hand in shaping nearly every U2 album.

On "No Line ...," Eno and Lanois play a more hands-on role, meriting the duo co-songwriting credits with Bono and the rest of U2 — guitarist The Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen Jr. — on all but four of the album's 11 tracks.

"No Line ..." falls short of the wholesale reinvention that U2 underwent on 1991's "Achtung Baby," but in its best moments showcases a refreshing return to musical exploration for a band that released its debut album 29 years ago.

The driving-but-disjointed leadoff single, "Get On Your Boots," has underwhelmed some U2 followers, but there is reassurance — the track is not representative of the album.

One standout track is "Magnificent." It begins with a brooding guitar line then weaves into a dance beat backed over layered keyboards and explodes into shimmering, The Edge-trademark guitar fireworks. Bono raises it up a notch, wailing "Only love/Only love can leave such a mark/But only love/Only love can heal such a scar."

The track's anthemic build and release is no less effective than the band's signature stadium-pleaser "Where The Streets Have No Name." But one stretch of lyrics where Bono declares he was "born to sing for you/I didn't have a choice but to lift you up," will do little to allay critics who view the singer as a self-appointed savior-megalomaniac.

Another gem is "Moment of Surrender," a midtempo ballad that clocks in at longer than 7

minutes. With a rolling bassline and church organ sound as a backdrop, Bono delivers a soulful, passionate vocal as he sings "We set ourselves on fire/Oh God, do not deny her/It's not if I believe in love/But if love believes in me."

Thematically, "No Line ..." finds Bono the lyricist exploring familiar U2 fare: love, hope, God and war, but less directly.

On the surreal rocker "Unknown Caller," which opens with the birdsong heard in the open-air space in Fez, Morocco, where it was recorded, Bono sings of a man lost "between the midnight and the dawning/In a place of no consequence of company," and then a sing-along chorus implores him to "Escape yourself and gravity ... Force quit and move to trash" — a nod to Mac computer users?

The message is more straightforward on "I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight," which despite its cumbersome title has U2 making their most unabashed pop song yet.

Just when you think you've got a handle on "No Line ...," U2 channels its heretofore unseen funky side with "Stand Up Comedy." The song works overall, but stumbles on some awkward rhyming when Bono sings "Stand up to rock stars/Napoleon is in high heels/Josephine be careful of small men with big ideas."

More satisfying is the album's pivot point, the ambient, electro-rocker "Fez-Being Born."

U2 left the most compelling songs on "No Line ..." on the latter half of the album: The fragile, folk song like "White As Snow," and the cinematic, spare closer, "Cedars Of Lebanon." The song features a half-spoken vocal by Bono delivered from the viewpoint of a war correspondent. □

In this album cover released by Interscope Records, the latest CD from U2, 'No Line On The Horizon,' is shown.

(AP Photo/Interscope Records)

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## US banks post first quarterly loss since 1990

By MARCY GORDON,

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON – The nation's banks lost \$26.2 billion in the last three months of 2008, the first quarterly deficit in 18 years, as the housing and credit crises escalated.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Thursday that U.S. banks and thrifts also more than doubled the amount they set aside to cover potential loan losses, to \$69.3 billion in the fourth quarter from \$32.1 billion a year earlier.

Regulators said there were 252 banks in trouble at the end of 2008, up from 171 in the third quarter.

The FDIC also said that for all of last year, the banking industry earned \$16.1 billion, the smallest annual profit since 1990.

The fourth-quarter loss compared with a \$575 million profit in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Rising losses on loans and eroding values of assets "overwhelmed" banks' revenues in the fourth quarter, the FDIC said. More than two-thirds of all banks and thrifts turned a profit in that period but their earnings were outstripped by large losses at a number of major banks.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair, reaching for a silver lining in the dismal picture, noted that total bank deposits increased in the October-December period by \$307.9 billion, or 3.5 percent — the largest rise in 10 years. Deposits in domestic bank offices rose \$274.1 billion, or 3.8 percent.

That showed confidence in the banking system and deposit insurance, Bair said. But she acknowledged that "the fourth quarter was a tough end to a tough year for the banking industry."

The latest indications of financial distress came as the Obama administration proposed boosting the federal deficit by an additional \$250 billion this year, enough to support as much as \$750 billion in increased spending under the government's rescue program for banks and other financial institutions. That would more than double the \$700 billion bank bailout passed by Congress last October that has provided aid to Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp. and hundreds more financial institutions of all sizes.

The Office of Thrift Supervision, meanwhile, announced a loss of

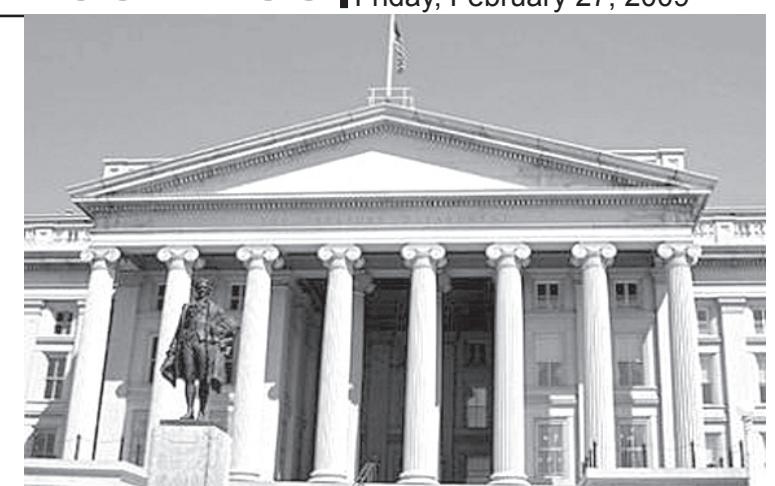
\$3 billion in the fourth quarter and a record \$13 billion annual loss for savings and loans last year.

The agency, part of the Treasury Department, also said it is launching a new unit to monitor thrifts with more than \$10 billion in assets. The new "large bank unit" will be working onsite at about 25 savings institutions. The OTS also will create new standards for reviewing enforcement actions on thrifts that do not meet minimum standards.

Thrifts are important to

consumer lending because they must have at least 65 percent of their lending in mortgages and other consumer loans. That also has made them especially vulnerable to the housing downturn: troubled assets now account for more than 2.5 percent of total thrift assets, up from nearly 1.7 percent a year ago.

Two of the biggest bank failures in the nation's history occurred last year and involved thrifts, and some lawmakers have raised concerns about the OTS' oversight of the industry. □



A view of the US Treasury Department. US authorities announced plans Wednesday for so-called stress tests to be conducted through April on the "capital adequacy" of troubled major commercial banks.

(AFP/File/Karen Bleier)

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The bow tie logo shines off the chromed grille of an unsold 2009 Silverado pickup truck at a Chevrolet dealership in the south Denver suburb of Englewood, Colo., on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. General Motors Corp. posted a \$9.6 billion fourth-quarter loss and said Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, it burned through \$6.2 billion of cash in the last three months of 2008 as it fought the worst U.S. auto sales climate since 1982 and sought government loans to keep the century-old company running.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski)  
Photo Tools

# GM posts \$9.6B 4Q loss, burns through \$6.2B cash

By TOM KRISHER and KIMBERLY S. JOHNSON, AP Auto Writers

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. posted a \$9.6 billion fourth-quarter loss and said it burned through \$6.2 billion of cash in the last three months of 2008 as it fought the worst U.S. auto sales climate since 1982 and sought government loans to keep the century-old company running.

The nation's biggest domestic automaker said Thursday it lost \$30.9 billion for the full year and expects to state in

its upcoming annual report whether its auditors believe the company remains a "going concern." GM and its auditors must determine whether there is substantial doubt about the automaker's ability to continue its operations.

Chief Financial Officer Ray Young said the determination will depend a lot on whether GM gets further government loans and whether it can accomplish its restructuring goals.

Young said that auditors are studying the future of the company because "there's uncertainty with how the Treasury will view our viability plan," and "uncertainty on whether we're going to be able to execute the terms of our loan agreement."

The company has received \$13.4 billion in federal loans since Dec. 31 and says it needs up to \$30 billion to stay out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Top GM executives were in Washington, D.C., Thursday to meet with the Obama administration's auto task force to talk about

restructuring and additional loans. "2008 was an extremely difficult year for the U.S. and global auto markets, especially the second half," Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner said in a statement. "These conditions created a very challenging environment for GM and other automakers and led us to take further aggressive and difficult measures to restructure our business."

Young said GM would reduce

its structural costs by another \$4.5 billion in 2009, from \$30.8 billion to \$26.3 billion.

GM's adjusted cash burn for the year in 2008 was \$19.2 billion, but Young expects that to fall to \$14 billion in 2009 as the company cuts structural costs. The company still will need more government help, he said, because GM expects the entire auto industry to sell a dismal 10.5 million vehicles in the U.S. this year.

Most of the cash burn this year can be attributed to the temporary shutdown of many GM plants during the month of January, he said.

"We're not pleased with a negative \$14 billion cash flow burn, that's still a very, very sizeable amount," he said, "but at the same time we recognize that the industry conditions in '09 are going to remain fairly challenging."

GM reported a net loss of \$15.71 per share for the fourth quarter, compared with a loss of \$722 million, or \$1.28 per share in the year-ago period. Quarterly revenue fell 39 percent to \$30.8 billion from \$46.8 billion, as credit availability froze across the globe, and a lack of consumer confidence and fears of job losses kept people from buying vehicles.

GM's fourth-quarter loss included \$3.7 billion in special items, including a \$1.1 billion charge for a drop in value of machinery for the Hummer and Saab brands, which are up for sale. □

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# Caffeine May Offer Some Skin Cancer Protection

By Steven Reinberg

HealthDay Reporter

THURSDAY, Feb. 26

(HealthDay News) -- Past studies have suggested that caffeine might offer some protection from skin cancer, and new research may explain why.

"We have found what we believe to be the mechanism by which caffeine is associated with decreased skin cancer," said lead researcher Dr. Paul Nghiem, an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Washington in Seattle.

For the study, Nghiem's team looked at caffeine's effect on human skin cells in a laboratory that had been exposed to ultraviolet radiation. They found that in cells damaged by UV rays, caffeine interrupted a protein called ATR-Chk1, causing the damaged cells to self-destruct.

"Caffeine has no effect on undamaged cells," Nghiem said.

ATR is essential to damaged cells that are growing rapidly,

Nghiem said, and caffeine specifically targets damaged cells that can become cancerous. "Caffeine more than doubles the number of damaged cells that will die normally after a given dose of UV," he said.

"This is a biological mechanism that explains what we have been seeing for many years from the oral intake of caffeine," he added.

The findings were published online Feb. 26 in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology.

But, Nghiem added, people shouldn't increase the amount of coffee or tea they drink to prevent skin cancer. "You are talking a lot of cups for a lot of years for a relatively small effect," he said. "But if you like it, it's another reason to drink it."

Nghiem has also been experimenting with applying caffeine directly to the skin. "It suppresses skin cancer development by as much as 72 percent in mice, and human studies are moving ahead slowly," he said.

It's possible that topical caffeine preparations might one day be used to help prevent skin cancer, Nghiem said. "Caffeine is both a sunscreen and it deletes damaged cells," he said. "It may well make sense to put it into a sunscreen preparation."

Dr. Robin Ashinoff, a dermatologist and clinical associate professor of dermatology at New York University's Langone Medical Center, thinks these findings need to be verified before they can have any clinical application.

"This study tells me that caffeine may be a useful ingredient topically to remove ultraviolet-genetically damaged cells from reproducing," Ashinoff said. "This may help prevent the development of skin cancer."

"It is interesting that caffeine, which is thought to have a negative connotation, has already been shown to be associated with lower incidences of non-melanoma skin cancers in several epidemiological studies," she added.



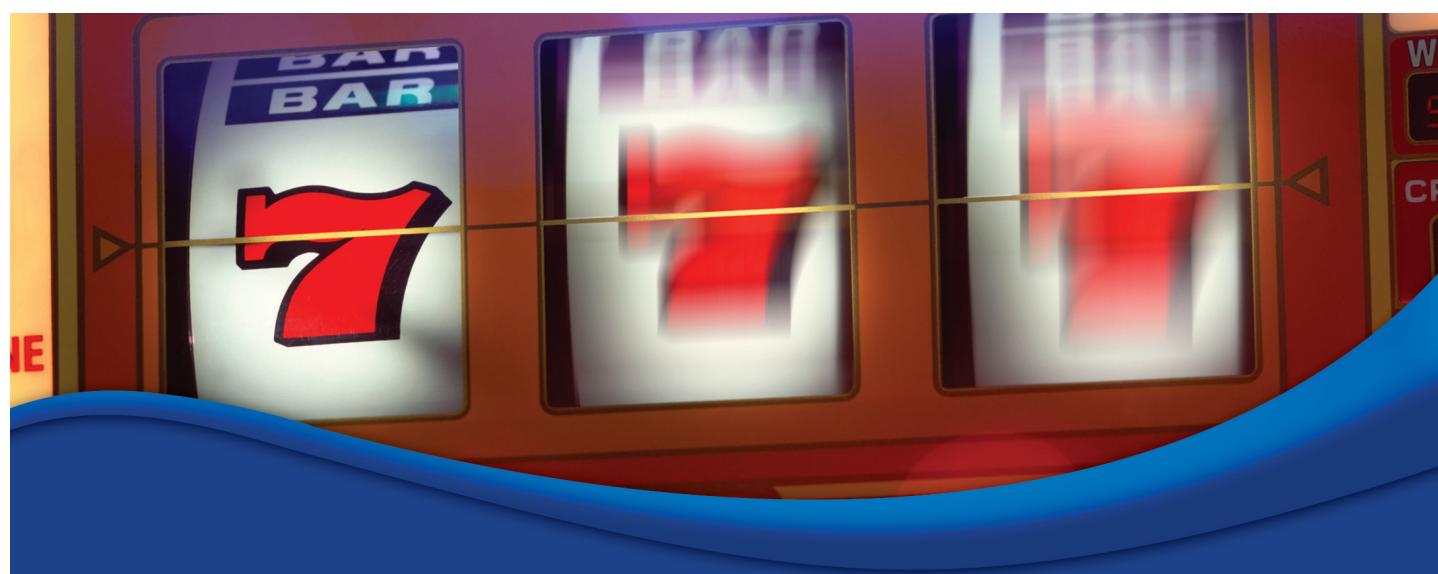
Rich Westerfield, the owner of Aldo Coffee Company serves his cappuccinos to the judges in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic Region Barista Competition in Cranberry, Pa., Friday, Feb. 6, 2009.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

Dr. Albert Lefkovits, a spokesman for the Skin Cancer Foundation and an associate clinical professor of dermatology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, doesn't think it's been proven that caffeine reduces the risk of skin cancer. "While this is an interesting concept that has been explored before, it will take years of extensive testing to determine

whether this will be a worthwhile prevention method," Lefkovits said.

"And, the study doesn't discuss how much caffeine would be needed for any real benefit," he said. "For instance, many people drink large amounts of caffeine on a daily basis and still get skin cancer. Protecting yourself from the sun is currently the only proven way to prevent skin cancer." □



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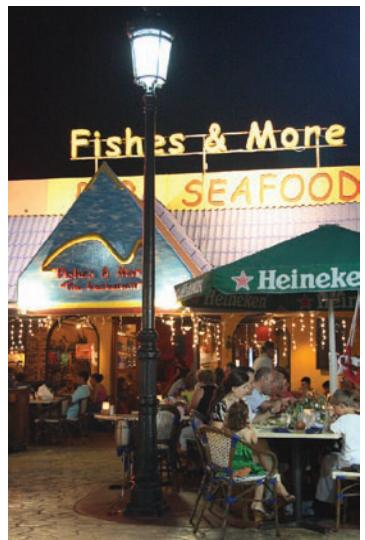
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and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant **open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm** for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the relaxed air-conditioned dinning room or outside on the terrace to enjoy the tropical breeze and daily live music. Most guests come in early for the **daily fresh catches**, such as Red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi, wahoo and tuna. Check with the server to find out about the Catch of the day. The chef will be more than happy to prepare your fish the way you like it best: grilled, deep-fried,



pan-fried or the chef's choice. Every Wednesday, **seafood specials** are prepared depending on what the Fishermen bring in fresh out of the water that afternoon. These specials usually include fresh Caribbean lobster and pounds of peeled shrimps. **Fishes and More** is for everyone, from large groups, families, couples and even singles who can't shake the seafood addiction can stop in for a fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. For those who like to try something different or have had their fill of spectacular seafood, the chef prepares a wonderful array of filet



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Hundreds of people wait in line to get into a job fair presented by Jobs & Careers Newspaper and Job Fairs in San Mateo, Calif., Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009. The number of newly laid-off Americans seeking unemployment benefits rose far more than expected last week as employers cut thousands of jobs amid a deepening recession.

Associated Press

## Americans receiving unemployment tops 5 million

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — As bad as it is already, the economy keeps getting worse—and government figures Thursday provided more evidence that the downward spiral won't end anytime soon. The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits topped 5 million for the first time since record-keeping began in 1967. And the number of first-time claims hit 667,000, the highest level in more than a quarter-century. Both figures were worse than experts expected.

Orders for cars, computers, machinery and other durable goods plunged a larger-than-expected 5.2 percent in January as global economic troubles reduced demand from customers at home and abroad. "We have been looking for signs that the economy's rate of decline might be slowing, but can't find any," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at the IHS Global Insight consulting firm.

The government reports offered more evidence that consumers are scaling back purchases as jobs vanish, home prices drop and stock portfolios shrink. Those factors fuel more job and spending cuts by profit-starved businesses.

"The hope is that policy efforts by the federal government will be able to break that cycle," said Zach Pandl, an economist at Nomura Securities International. "But it's still going to take some time before that happens."

President Barack Obama's \$787 billion stimulus package, for example, includes billions of dollars

of infrastructure spending, but most of the impact will not be felt until 2010 or later, Pandl said.

The Obama administration forecast Thursday that the budget deficit will hit \$1.75 trillion this year, reflecting the massive spending being undertaken to battle the severe recession and the worst financial crisis in seven decades.

Initial jobless claims jumped to 667,000 last week, the Labor Department said, from the previous week's figure of 631,000. Analysts had expected a slight drop in claims, which are now at the highest level since October 1982, though the work force has grown by about half since then. The four-week average of initial claims, which smooths out fluctuations, rose to 639,000, the highest in more than 26 years.

And the number of people claiming benefits for more than one week reached 5.1 million, the highest total on records dating back to 1967 and the fifth straight week that continuing claims have reached a new high.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. added to the bad news Thursday, saying that it would eliminate about 12,000 jobs as it absorbs the operations of failed savings and loan Washington Mutual Inc. That figure includes 9,200 cuts announced previously and 2,800 jobs expected to be lost through attrition. Besides cutting jobs, companies are reducing their orders for new equipment. The Commerce Department's latest report on U.S. factory activity showed orders falling for a record sixth straight month. The previous record of four straight monthly declines came in 1992. □

## Senate votes to give DC citizens vote in Congress



Sen. Joe Lieberman, left, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and District of Columbia delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, hold a news conference to discuss the District of Columbia voting rights bill, at the U.S. Capitol, in Washington, on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009.

Associated Press

By JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON(AP) — The right to a vote in Congress denied the District of Columbia when it became the nation's capital two centuries ago would be granted under legislation the Senate passed Thursday.

Continued on page B4



The head of the Dutch Safety Authority, Pieter van Vollenhoven, standing second on left, examines a plane wreckage at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

## Engine trouble possible cause in Dutch plane crash

By TOBY STERLING

Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Engine trouble may have caused the Turkish Airlines crash that killed nine people in the Netherlands, the head of the agency investigating the accident said Thursday. Separately, officials said those killed were five Turks and four Americans.

Flight TK1951 from Istanbul crashed about one mile short of the runway at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Wednesday morning, smashing into three pieces and spraying luggage and debris across a field. It was carrying 135 passengers and crew.

Continued on Page B6

# Gates: photos of US war dead need families' OK



In this undated photo released by the U.S. Department of Defense and obtained by thememoryhole.org shows flag-draped coffins of U.S. war casualties aboard a cargo plane in Dover, Del. News organizations will be allowed to photograph the homecomings of America's war dead under a new Pentagon policy, defense and congressional officials said Thursday.

**Associated Press**

By PAULINE JELINEK and ANNE GEARAN

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Families of U.S. war dead will

decide whether the flag-draped caskets of their loved ones can be photographed by news organizations when the fallen return to U.S. soil, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday.

Gates said he decided to permit the photos at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, if the families agree. A working group will come up with details and logistics.

The new policy reverses a ban put in place in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush. Some critics contended the government was trying to hide the human cost of war.

"We should not presume to make the decision for the families — we should actually let them make it," Gates said at a Pentagon news conference. He cited a difference of opinion inside the Pentagon about whether to change the policy, based on concerns about what would be in the grieving families' best interests. He said he was "never comfortable" with the ban.

"We've seen so many families

go through so much," added Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said the goal is to meet family needs in the most dignified way possible.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said President Barack Obama asked Gates to review the policy of media coverage. Gibbs said Gates came back with a policy consistent with one used at Arlington National Cemetery. Gibbs said it gives families the final say and "allows them to make that decision and protect their privacy if that's what they wish to do. And the president is supportive of the secretary's decision."

A veteran's group welcomed the move.

"All too often, the sacrifices of our military are hidden from view," Paul Rieckhoff, executive director of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "The sight of flag-draped coffins is, and should be, a sobering reminder to all Americans of the ultimate sacrifice our troops have

made and the high price of our freedom."

But a spokeswoman for a military family group expressed disappointment. "This is a complete disregard for the will of America's military families and the need for their privacy during this solemn moment," said Meghan Tisinger, spokeswoman for Families United.

Gates said family groups had been consulted and agreed with the changes.

Two Democratic senators, John Kerry and Frank Lautenberg, urged Obama to let news photographers attend ceremonies at Dover and other military facilities when military remains are returned to the United States.

The Dover base is where casualties are brought before they are transferred on to the families' hometowns.

Gates said he initially asked for a review a year ago and was advised that families might feel uncomfortable with opening the ceremonies to media or that the relatives might feel

pressure to attend the services despite financial stresses.

"Every flag-draped coffin represents a family that will never again share a moment with their spouse, child or sibling," Lautenberg said after the announcement. "We should honor — not hide — flag-draped coffins. They are a symbol of the respect, honor and dignity that our fallen heroes deserve."

Over the years, there were times when news organizations were allowed to photograph coffins, until the administration of President George W. Bush and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As of Wednesday, at least 4,251 members of the U.S. military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

As of Tuesday, at least 584 members of the U.S. military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defense Department. □

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# Colleges warn students about Mexico travel

By AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. State Department and universities around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying about a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border. "We're not necessarily telling students not to go, but we're going to certainly alert them," said Tom Dougan, vice president for student affairs at the University of Rhode Island. "There have been Americans kidnapped, and if you go you need to be very aware and very alert to this fact."

More than 100,000 high school- and college-age Americans travel to Mexican resort areas during spring break each year. Much of the drug violence is happening in border towns, and tourists have generally not been targeted, though there have been killings in the big spring-break resorts of Acapulco and Cancun, well away from the border.

The University of Arizona in Tucson is urging its approximately 37,000 students not to go to Mexico. Other universities — in the Southwest and far beyond, including Penn State, Notre Dame, the University of Colorado and the University at Buffalo — said they would call students' attention to the travel warning issued Feb. 20 by the State Department. The State Department stopped short of warning spring breakers not to go to Mexico, but advised them to avoid areas of prostitution and drug-dealing and take other commonsense precautions.

"Sage advice," said Tom Mangan, a spokesman for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We have had documented violence, attacks, killings, shootouts with the drug cartels involving

not only the military but law enforcement personnel. It is indiscriminate violence, and certainly innocent people have been caught up in that collateral damage."

Mexico's drug cartels are waging a bloody fight among themselves for smuggling routes and against government forces, carrying out massacres and dumping beheaded bodies in the streets. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence in Mexico last year. But Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said in an interview with The Associated Press: "There is no major risk for students coming into Mexico in general terms. It is always important to advise the youngsters to behave."

Despite the bloodshed, the number of foreign tourists visiting Mexico surged to 23 million in 2008, up 5.9 percent from the year before, spurred in part by the tumbling value of the peso

against the dollar, according to the country's Tourism Department. The department estimates 80 percent of tourists in Mexico come from the United States.

"Cancun has always been one of our most popular destinations and that hasn't changed this year," said Patrick Evans of STA Travel, one of the biggest spring-break travel agencies. "Many of the packages we offer include lodging on the beach and in very nice resorts that take the utmost pride in making sure customers are safe." Some students said the warnings are unlikely to deter them.

University of Arizona sophomore Daniel Wallace is going to Puerto Penasco, or Rocky Point, for spring break, saying he is not worried about violence there. Besides, the 19-year-old said: "It's relaxing, it's warm, I'm a big fan of the beach and the drinking age is lower. It's a fun place to go."



In this Monday March 17, 2003 file photo, students from the United States on spring break sunbathe at Cancun beach, Mexico. The U.S. State Department and universities around the country are warning college students headed for Mexico for some spring-break partying of a surge in drug-related murder and mayhem south of the border.

Associated Press

Amanda Corbett, a sophomore at North Carolina State, said she is going snowboarding in Virginia because she couldn't afford Cancun. But three of her roommates are going there.

"They really wanted to go," the 20-year-old said. "Honestly, they probably

think nothing will happen to them. That's the way I would look at it."

"If anything is going to deter people," said Danielle Jones, a North Carolina State student who is staying close to home because of a family emergency, "it's the recession." □

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District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, left, greets DC Vote executive director Ilir Zherka, after the Senate passed the District of Columbia House Voting Right Acts, 61-37, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009. The bill now moves to the House of Representatives.

#### **SENATE VOTES**

**Continued from Page B1**

Congress is "moving to right a centuries-old wrong," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid shortly before the 61-37 vote.

The House is expected to pass the measure with a strong majority next week and President Barack Obama, a co-sponsor when the bill failed to clear the Senate two years ago, has promised to sign it.

The measure is likely to face a court challenge immediately after becoming law; opponents argue that it is unconstitutional because D.C. is not a state and does not qualify for representation.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent, who sponsored the bill with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, expressed confidence that

they could win the legal argument and noted that the bill contained an expedited appeals process to ensure a quick court decision.

The real issue, he said, is that the disenfranchisement of 600,000 residents of the nation's capital "is patently unjust and un-American in a sense of the best principles of this country."

"This is a historic moment," said Ilir Zherka, head of the advocacy group DC Vote. "In 2007 we were gaining tremendous momentum," he said. "The huge difference this year is that we have an advocate in the White House."

Two years ago, with Democrats holding a smaller majority in the Senate and then-President George W. Bush threatening a veto on constitutional grounds, the

*Associated Press*

Senate fell three votes short of overcoming a GOP-led filibuster.

Under the rules of debate Thursday, supporters needed 60 votes to win passage. Six Republicans voted for the measure while two Democrats opposed it. Utah's Hatch was a co-sponsor in part because the legislation, to offset the certain Democratic gain from D.C., adds a fourth district to Republican-leaning Utah. That would increase House voting membership by two, to 437. The two representatives would be seated at the start of the next session in January 2011. Utah's maintaining that fourth seat would depend on the outcome of the 2010 census. Utah barely missed out on picking up an extra seat after the 2000 census.

The final Senate vote came after supporters turned back a constitutional challenge and another amendment

that would have effectively returned the nonfederal areas of the district to Maryland.

Senators did approve, 62-36, a controversial amendment pushed by pro-gun advocates that overturns most of the district's tough gun control laws. That provision would still have to be approved when the House and Senate meet to reconcile differences in their bills.

Opponents of the legislation pointed to Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution, which says members of the House should be chosen "by the people of the several states." The Constitution is clear, said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, that "only states elect members of Congress. And according to the same article, the seat of the federal government is not to be considered a state."

Congress in 1978 did approve

a constitutional amendment giving the district a full voice in Congress, but it was unable to win ratification of three-fourths of state legislatures. Those on the other side cited Article I, Section 8, which empowers Congress to "exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever" over the district chosen to be the national capital. Constitutional scholars, they say, agree that gives Congress the right to give the district a vote. They add that D.C. residents pay federal taxes and serve in the military and that the courts have long considered the district equivalent to a state in matters such as interstate commerce, taxation and criminal matters.

D.C. residents have had the right to vote in presidential elections since the 23rd Amendment was ratified in 1961. □

## **Top lawmakers skeptical of Obama's Iraq plan**

By ANNE FLAHERTY

*Associated Press Writer*

WASHINGTON —

Congressional leaders were skeptical as they awaited details on President Barack Obama's plan to begin withdrawing troops from Iraq while leaving tens of thousands behind. Senior administration officials were expected to outline a plan that would bring most of the 142,000 forces home by August 2010. As many as 50,000 troops could remain for cleanup and protection operations.

"I have been one for a long time

that's called for significant cutbacks in Iraq, and I am happy to listen to the secretary of defense and the president," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told reporters Thursday before the briefing at the White House. "But when they talk about 50,000, that's a little higher number than I had anticipated."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had said Wednesday that she too wanted to hear the president's justification for keeping 50,000 troops in Iraq. "I do think that there's a need for some," Pelosi said in an

interview on MSNBC. "I don't know that all of them have to be in country."

Republican lawmakers were skeptical for a different reason. They were concerned that troops might be pulled out too fast and security gains sacrificed.

"While it may have sounded good during the campaign, I do think it's important that we listen to those commanders and our diplomats who are there to understand how fragile the situation is," said House Republican leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who disagreed with Obama on Iraq policy when they competed for the presidency last fall, said the plan would not necessarily prevent casualties.

"Let's also be realistic: Advisers in any conflict are in harm's way," McCain told an audience at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

An existing U.S.-Iraq agreement, negotiated under President George W. Bush, calls for U.S. combat troops to withdraw from Baghdad and other cities by the end of June, with all American forces out of the country by the end of 2011. □



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# Four members of assisted suicide group are arrested

By GREG BLUESTEIN

Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Joining the Final Exit Network costs \$50, and the privileges of membership include this: When you're ready to die, the organization will send two "exit guides" to show you how to suffocate yourself using helium tanks and a plastic hood.

The Georgia-based organization says it is providing an invaluable and humane service. Authorities call it a crime.

Four members of the Final Exit Network, including its president and its medical director, were arrested Wednesday and charged with assisted suicide in the death of 58-year-old John Celmer last June at his home near Atlanta. Investigators said the organization may have been involved in as many as 200 other deaths around the country.

"The law is very clear, and they clearly violated it," said Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman John Bankhead.

The arrests came after an eight-month investigation in which an undercover agent posing as someone bent on suicide infiltrated the Final Exit Network, which bases its work on "The Final Exit," a best-selling suicide manual by British author Derek Humphry.

Members of the Final Exit

Network are instructed to buy two new helium tanks and a hood, known as an "exit bag," according to the GBI. In court papers, investigators said the organization recommends helium because it is undetectable during an autopsy.

The network, which was founded in 2004 and claims 3,000 members, donors and volunteers nationwide, has long operated in the open. It has its own Web site, and its leaders have held news conferences and appeared at paid speaking engagements.

The group's members bristle at the term assisted suicide, saying they don't actively aid suicides but rather support and guide those who decide to end their lives.

"We're just there to help," said Jerry Dincin, the group's vice president, who was not arrested. "People insist upon it. They want to do what they want to do. They're suffering, and if they have intolerable pain, then they want to sometimes get out of that intolerable pain."

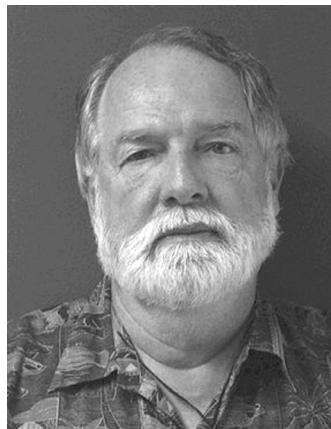
Celmer did not appear to be

seriously ill. While his mother said he had suffered for years from throat and mouth cancer, court documents quoted his doctor as saying he had made a "remarkable recovery" and was cancer-free at the time of his suicide. Authorities said he may have been embarrassed about his appearance after jaw surgery.

Also, his doctor told investigators that Celmer was in pain because of arthritis, but that it could have been lessened if he had taken his medication properly and stopped drinking and smoking.

Georgia authorities arrested the group's president, Thomas E. Goodwin, and member Claire Blehr. According to investigators, Goodwin and Blehr were with Celmer when he died, each holding a hand, and the two cleaned up the scene afterward by removing the hood and the helium tanks.

Maryland authorities arrested the organization's medical director, Dr. Lawrence D. Egbert, 81, of Baltimore, and Nicholas Alec Sheridan, a regional coordinator.



This image provided by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office shows Thomas E. Goodwin and Claire Blehr who were two of four members of an alleged assisted suicide ring charged Wednesday Feb. 25, 2009 with helping a 58-year-old Georgia man end his life, and investigators in eight other states were looking into whether the group was involved in more deaths.

**Associated Press**

Investigators said Egbert and Sheridan evaluated Celmer before his death and gave the OK for his suicide.

Those arrested could get up to five years in prison on the assisted-suicide charges.

They were also charged with evidence-tampering and racketeering. Oregon and Washington are the only states to legalize assisted suicide.

Authorities in Arizona are also investigating whether the group helped in the 2007 death of a woman who suffered

from depression but was not terminally ill. As part of the probe, investigators searched 14 sites in Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, Colorado, and Montana.

Goodwin said in a 2006 interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that the organization had worked with 36 people who wanted to end their lives. In court papers, investigators said Goodwin alone had assisted in 30 deaths. □

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Rescue workers are seen near the wreckage of a Turkish Airlines aeroplane at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009. The aeroplane, with 135 people aboard, slammed into a muddy field while attempting to land at Amsterdam's main airport. Nine people were killed and more than 50 were injured, many seriously, officials said. The Boeing 737-800 broke into three pieces on impact about two miles short of a runway.

**DUTCH PLANE CRASH**  
*Continued from Page B1*

Chief investigator Pieter van Vollenhoven said, in remarks quoted by Dutch state television NOS, that the Boeing 737-800 had fallen almost directly from the sky, which pointed toward the plane's engines having stopped. He

said a reason for that had not yet been established.

Spokeswoman Sandra Groenendal of the Dutch Safety Authority confirmed his remarks and added that engine failure on the was still only "one of the possible scenarios" for the crash.

Van Vollenhoven said an

**Associated Press**

analysis of the plane's flight data recorders in Paris could be completed as early as Friday, but his agency would probably not make a preliminary finding until next week.

"We hope to have a firmer grip as soon as possible," he said, adding that the information retrieved from the recorders was of high quality.

Survivors say engine noise seemed to stop, the plane shuddered and then simply fell out of the sky tail-first. Witnesses on the ground said the plane dropped from about 300 feet (90 meters).

Haarlemmermeer mayor Theo Weterings said the names of the victims would not be released until the bodies have been formally identified.

"The relatives have been informed" of the deaths, he told the Associated Press. "We have arranged some help for them."

He also said Thursday that investigators now say 135 passengers and crew were

on the flight, not 134 as previously believed, which was one reason it had taken so long to account for the dead. At the crash site Thursday, investigators took detailed photos of the wreckage, trying to piece together why the plane lost speed and crashed.

On Wednesday, Jim Proulx, a Boeing spokesman in Seattle, identified four Boeing employees on the flight as Ronald A. Richey, John Salman, Ricky E. Wilson and Michael T. Hemmer. Proulx said they are from the Puget Sound area of Washington state, and were traveling on company business.

Boeing could not immediately be reached Thursday for a reaction or say whether any or all of its employees were among the dead.

One survivor, Henk Heijloo, said the last message he heard from the captain was for flight crew to take their seats. He said it took him time to realize the landing had gone wrong.

"We were coming in at an odd angle, and I felt the pilot give the plane more gas," he said. He thought the pilot might have been trying to abort the landing, because the nose came up.

Then he realized the landing was too rough to be normal and a moment later he felt an enormous crash.

He walked away apparently uninjured, but his body began aching Thursday, he said.

Turkish Airlines chief Temel Kotil said the captain, Hasan Tahsin Arisan, was an experienced former air force pilot. Turkish officials said the plane was built in 2002.

Turkish Airlines issued a statement Thursday denying reports that the plane had had technical problems in the days before the accident.

It confirmed the plane had undergone routine maintenance on Feb. 19, and that it had to delay a flight Feb. 23 to replace a faulty caution light. □

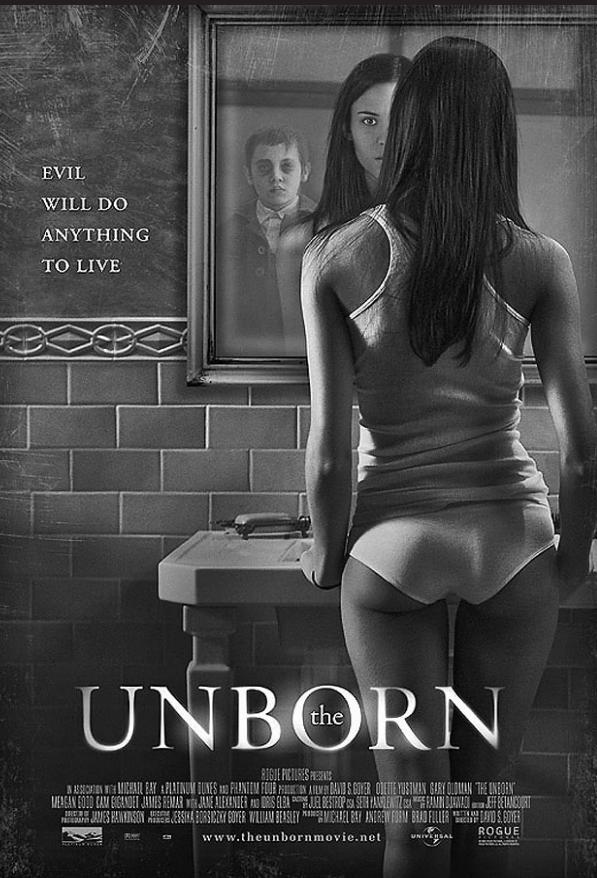


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		matinee: 12:20	2:20	late show:	12:10	
<input type="checkbox"/> R	<b>THE INTERNATIONAL</b>	daily: 4:55	7:20	9:50	late show:	12:20
		matinee: 12:05	2:30			
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU</b>	daily: 6:45	9:20			
		matinee: 1:10	late show:	11:55		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 4:05	6:20	8:20	10:20	
		matinee: 12:00	2:05	late show:	12:25	
<input type="checkbox"/> R	<b>UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS</b>	daily: 3:50	5:50	7:55	10:00	
		matinee: 11:55	1:50	late show:	12:00	
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 4:40				
		matinee: 12:20	2:25	late show:		
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15	6:20	8:20	10:15	
		matinee: 12:10	2:15	late show:	12:15	

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<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE UNBORN</b>	daily: 4:05	6:00	8:05	10:05	<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:	12:05	
<input type="checkbox"/> R	<b>THE INTERNATIONAL</b>	daily: 4:50	7:20	7:20	9:50	<b>NEW</b>
		matinee: 11:55	2:25	late show:	12:15	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>TAKEN</b>	daily: 4:10	6:20	8:20	10:20	
		matinee: 12:05	2:10	late show:	12:20	
<input type="checkbox"/> R	<b>FRIDAY THE 13TH</b>	daily: 7:55		7:55	10:00	
		matinee:		late show:	12:10	
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>HOTEL FOR DOGS</b>	daily: 5:40				
		matinee: 1:25	3:35	late show:		
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE PINK PANTHER 2</b>	daily: 3:40	5:50	7:50	9:55	
			1:40	late show:	12:00	
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>PAUL BLART: MALL COP</b>	daily: 4:15	6:10	8:10	10:15	
		matinee: 12:10	2:15	late show:	12:25	
<b>DRIVE-IN</b>						February 26 – March 1
<input type="checkbox"/> PG	<b>INKHEART</b>	Thursday: 8:00		Friday: 8:00 & 10:30		
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>YES MAN</b>	Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30		Sunday: 8:00		

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## Guadeloupe inches closer to a strike-ending deal

By JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press Writer

P O I N T E - A - P I T R E , Guadeloupe (AP) — Negotiators hailed progress in labor talks Thursday but still fell short of a deal to end a general strike that has paralyzed the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe for 37 days.

In overnight talks, the French government offered to provide \$102 (€80) of a striker-demanded \$250 (€200) monthly increase on the minimum wage.

But union leaders, business owners and French government officials were again unable to find a solution that would help islanders cope with the economic crisis, unemployment and soaring living costs — and be acceptable to the private sector of this French overseas department.

"We made progress but we have not reached the end," Nicolas Desforges, Guadeloupe's top Paris-appointed official, told reporters as he exited the meeting. He said representatives of the private sector were considering proposals, and negotiations resumed Thursday afternoon.

Strike leaders with the Collective Against Exploitation, or LKP, told supporters, who remained singing and drumming on a Guadeloupe plaza throughout

the negotiations, that they had secured a promise to meet the \$250 monthly raise for islanders making \$1,130 (€900) a month but that details were yet to be finalized.

But business owners involved in the negotiations could not immediately be reached to confirm those statements.

Meanwhile, patience was wearing thin as roughly 500 protesters descended upon a high-end grocery store in Baie-Mahault and chased off shoppers. They chanted, "Employers are thieves, exploitation has ended!" as they knocked over shopping carts and barricaded the parking lot. In the neighboring French Caribbean island of Martinique, violence erupted for the second night in a row over high prices, low pay and alleged neglect by officials in Paris. Strikers looted stores, burned cars and hurled beer bottles at police who responded with tear gas.

Two police officers were injured and one was taken to the hospital, police said in a statement.

Dozens of people were detained, although police did not immediately provide a specific number. And at least 27 people detained on Tuesday night remained in police custody, accused of participating in looting and

arson.

Labor union members shout slogans during a protest in Pointe-a-Pitre, on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009.

Associated Press

Firefighters said they responded to about 50 calls that included 14 burned cars and about 40 garbage bin fires.

French Prime Minister Francois Fillon vowed Thursday that calm would be restored to Martinique.

"We are putting into place the means to ensure the security of people and goods in Martinique," he said without elaborating. Violence must not interfere with negotiations, he said.

Martinique has not seen the same degree of violence as that on Guadeloupe, where weeks of strikes degenerated into rioting in which one labor activist was shot dead. Business on both islands has been largely frozen.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy last week announced a \$730 million (€580 million) financial package to help development in the Caribbean regions of his country. But strikers complained that proposals were vague and did not directly address their demand for higher pay. □



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9), of France, is defended by Portland Trail Blazers center Joel Przybilla, left, and guard Brandon Roy (7) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009.

*Associated Press*

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — With Tim Duncan sidelined for the second straight game, Tony Parker scored 39 points as the Spurs beat the Portland Trail Blazers for an 11th consecutive time in San Antonio, 99-84 Wednesday.

Parker carried the Spurs again without Duncan, who is day to day with a right leg injury. Between Parker's 37 points Tuesday and Wednesday's encore, Parker combined for 76 in back-to-back games without Duncan or Manu Ginobili healthy.

Channing Frye scored 15 for Portland. Matt Bonner added 15 points for San Antonio, which has won four straight.

**Nuggets 110, Hawks 109**

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored a season-best 33 points as Denver edged Atlanta.

The Hawks had trimmed a 110-102 deficit in the final 90 seconds but Flip Murray's shot clanked off the rim.

Marvin Williams led Atlanta with a season-best 31 points.

Anthony scored 23 for Denver.

**Clippers 93, Celtics 91**

At Los Angeles, Zach Randolph

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### NBA Roundup

## Spurs topple Trail Blazers as Duncan sits

scored 30 points to lead the Los Angeles Clippers over Boston. Randolph hit a layup with 20 seconds remaining to give Los Angeles a 92-91 lead. Boston's Paul Pierce missed a 17-footer from the top of the key with 10 seconds left. Randolph was fouled after an inbounds play and made one free throw with 6 seconds left.

Randolph also had 12 rebounds. Baron Davis had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists for Los Angeles before fouling out with 35 seconds remaining. Pierce led the Celtics, who are without the injured Kevin Garnett, with 20 points. Rondo and Ray Allen each scored 17.

**Nets 111, Bulls 99**

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Devin Harris scored 19 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter to lead New Jersey for the second straight game in a win over Chicago.

The dazzling performance came just two days after Harris scored 39 points and hit a buzzer-beating half-court shot for a win over Philadelphia.

Reserve Bobby Simmons added 18 points and rookie Brook Lopez had 13.

Ben Gordon had 17 points and recently acquired John Salmons added 15 points to lead the

Bulls, who were a woeful 7-for-25 from the field in the final quarter, including hitting one of their first 11.

**76ers 106, Wizards 98**

At Washington, Andre Iguodala scored 22 points, including a flying dunk, and had 11 assists and nine rebounds as Philadelphia beat Washington to snap a four-game losing streak. Andre Miller scored 17 points, Louis Williams had 16 points, and Samuel Dalembert finished with 11 points and 13 rebounds as the 76ers improved to .500 on the season with their first victory since the All-Star break.

**Pacers 104, Grizzlies 99**

At Indianapolis, T.J. Ford and Jarrett Jack each scored 20 points as Indiana edged Memphis.

Memphis' Rudy Gay missed a 3-pointer with 7 seconds left that would have tied the score.

Brandon Rush and Marquis Daniels scored 14 points apiece and Troy Murphy had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacers. Marc Gasol had 22 points and 13 rebounds, and rookie O.J. Mayo added 21 points for Memphis, which lost its sixth straight.

**Magic 114, Knicks 109**

At New York, Dwight Howard had 24 points and 21 rebounds in his 20th career 20-20 game and Hedo Turkoglu scored 33

points to lead Orlando past New York.

Howard overwhelmed the undersized Knicks for most of the game, then Rafer Alston and Rashard Lewis hit big 3-pointers in the final 3 1/2 minutes after New York had chipped away. Lewis scored 17 points and Alston added 15.

Nate Robinson overcame a slow start to score 32 for the Knicks. Wilson Chandler had 27 points and Al Harrington finished with 26.

**Hornets 90, Pistons 87**

At New Orleans, David West scored 30 points and grabbed two key offensive rebounds on New Orleans' final possession to help the Hornets hand Detroit its eighth straight loss.

West and Chris Paul, who finished with 20 points and 13 assists, combined for all but two of the Hornets' 25 fourth-quarter points.

The Pistons' skid is their longest in 14 seasons. Richard Hamilton scored a team-high 24 points for Detroit.

**Mavericks 116, Bucks 96**

At Dallas, Josh Howard scored 27 points and Jason Kidd added 19 as Dallas avenged its worst loss of the season last month in Milwaukee. □

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# Tiger loses in second round to Tim Clark

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP) — One day after a ceremonious return to golf, Tiger Woods was on his way home.

Tim Clark of South Africa played 16 holes without a bogey and pulled ahead for good on the back nine to knock Woods out of the Accenture Match Play Championship with a 4-and-2 victory on Thursday. Woods holed out a 50-foot bunker shot for birdie on the 14th hole and appeared to be making a run, but his tee shot on the 15th hole hit a cart path and went over a fence and out of bounds, costing him the hole. The good news for golf was it probably won't have to wait eight months to see him again. Woods likely will play in two weeks at Miami in the CA Championship, although he said he would wait to see how his left knee felt. This was his first tournament since reconstructive surgery on the knee one week after he won the U.S. Open in June.

Asked where he would go from here, Woods replied, "To the airport."

Clark, a pesky opponent with a sharp short game, didn't give him much of a chance. He was 6-under par when the match ended on the par-3 16th hole, where he put his tee shot 4 feet away. The putt was conceded when Woods failed to chip in from just off the green.

"I knew I had to play out of my mind to beat him," Clark said. "I'm very proud of the way I played."

Next up for Clark is 19-year-old Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, who birdied the last two

holes to beat Hunter Mahan. Phil Mickelson, coming off a victory last week at the Northern Trust Open, is the highest seed left in the tournament going into the third round. Mickelson, No. 5, again avoided a late meltdown and hung on to beat fellow Masters champion Zach Johnson, 1 up.

Vijay Singh, the No. 4 seed, lost his last three holes and was beaten by Luke Donald of England in 19 holes. The only other top-10 players remaining were No. 8 seed Geoff Ogilvy, who won in 19 holes for the second straight day, this time against Shingo Katayama; and No. 9 seed Camilo Villegas, who beat Miguel Angel Jimenez, 5 and 4.

Villegas has played only 26 holes in two rounds.

It was a big day for England, which had five players advance to the third round, the same as the Americans. Leading the

way was Oliver Wilson, who made eight birdies and needed them all in a 2-and-1 victory over Anthony Kim.

Woods, the defending champion, had gone 82 consecutive holes without trailing until he caught a plugged lie in a bunker on the sixth hole and failed to save par. He squared the match with a 10-foot birdie on the next hole, and it was tied at the turn.

Then, Clark took over.

Starting with the par-5 11th, he won three straight holes with birdies, and was poised to go 4 up when Woods went bunker-to-bunker on the 14th hole. Then came the biggest cheer of the day when Woods blasted out of the sand and into the cup for birdie.

The rally was on. And then it ended.

Woods' tee shot on the 331-yard 15th hit a cart path right of the fairway and headed into the desert. Only when Woods reached the ball did he learn it



Tiger Woods, right, congratulates Tim Clark, of South Africa, after Clark's 4 and 2 victory in their second round match at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

had gone over a fence and out of bounds.

He flung his Tiger cover off the driver and walked back to the tee to play his third shot. Woods was so angry he declined a ride

back to the tee. At least he was healthy enough for a long walk. Woods drove the green on his next shot to 20 feet, but missed the par putt, and Clark was again in control. □

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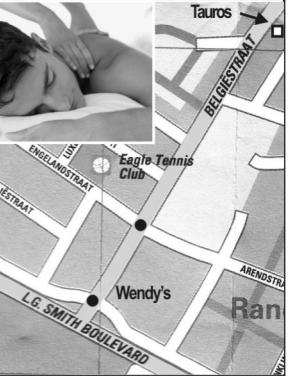
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week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000	week#10, DutchVillage - 2Bdr R#212, on the beach-US\$20,000	weeks# 8, - La Cabana - 1Bdr R#407a-,Oceanview-US\$9,000
week# 12 -Renaissance.-1Bdr. R#2327,PoolOcean-US\$11,000	week# 6+7,Aruban Resort-1Bdr R#4541 ,Poolview-US\$8,000pw	week# 9, DutchVillage - 1Bdr R#123, on the beach-US\$8,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000	week# 11,DutchVillage - 2Bdr. R#46/49,O.The B.-US\$18,000	week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000
PlatinumW#1-17,Marriott Surf 2bdr,Gardenview-US\$25,000	week# 6, Costa Linda - 2 Bdr. R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000	week# 10-DiviVillage -studio R#3101,Poolview-US\$10,000
week# 8 , La Cabana -2Bdr R#301E,OceanFr-US\$25,000	week# 9 ,La Cabana B.R.C- stu. R#444B,OceanPool-US\$7,000	week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV-. US\$14,000
week# 13, Renaissance-1Bdr. R#2544,Oceanview-US\$10,000	week# 4+5,Costa Linda -2Br R#4019,OceanP-US\$60,000	week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000
week# 3+4 La Cabana -2Bdr. R#346E,OceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week# 4 + 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,Oceanfr.-US\$12,000pw	week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500
week#5+6La Cabana-2Bdr. R#346EOceanFr-US\$25,000pw	week#10, DutchVillage - 1 Bdr. R#28 ,on the beach-US\$9,000	week#9+10ArubanResort -1Bdr R#2510,Poolview-US\$7,500pw
week# 12 Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#309,Oceanview- US\$18,000	2x week2-17,OccidentalGr-1Bd. supreme,Oceanfr. - US\$35,000	week# 11-Divi village -Studio R#8202,Oceanview-US\$10,000
week#7,Renaissance S.- 1Bdr R#2537,Poolocean-US\$15,000	week# 15,CasaDelMar- 2Bdr. R#1223,OceanFront-US\$20,000	week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000	week#11, DiviPhoenix -Studio. R#1303,OceanFront-US\$5,000	week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br R#336a,Ocean/pool-US\$11,000
Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000	week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000	week#11,Dutchvillage- 2Bdr R#46&49,PoolV US\$18,000pw
Week# 7,La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339,OceanFr-US\$8,000	week#8 ,Aruban Resort - 1Bdr. R#1537, Poolview - US\$9,000	week#11+12,ArubanResort-1Br R#2510 ,Poolview - US\$7,500
Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c,OceanVi-US\$9,000	week# 8&9,Aruban Resort,-1Bdr R#1519, Poolv- US\$18,000 p.w.	week#10.DutchVillage-1Bdr R#121,Poolview-US\$8,000

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# México envía más soldados a ciudad azotada por narco

CIUDAD JUAREZ, México (Reuters) - El Gobierno mexicano enviará a 5,000 soldados y policías a reforzar los operativos contra el narcotráfico en la fronteriza Ciudad Juárez, atormentada por una ola de violencia de los carteles de la droga especialmente en el último año. Este es de los mayores contingentes militares enviados a puntos de la frontera con Estados Unidos desde que comenzaron los operativos especiales en diciembre del 2006 y pese a los cuales el año pasado murieron más de 6,000 personas por enfrentamientos entre bandas y con fuerzas de seguridad.

El hombre más buscado de México y líder del cártel de Sinaloa, Joaquín "el Chapo" Guzmán, lucha por el control de Ciudad Juárez, puerta de entrada de drogas hacia Estados Unidos. La zona está actualmente en manos del líder del cártel que lleva el nombre de la ciudad, Vicente Carrillo Fuentes.

Esta pugna, además de enfrentamientos con fuerzas de seguridad, tienen aterrorizada a la población de 1.6 millones de habitantes. Sólo este mes, 250 personas fueron asesinadas en la ciudad, ubicada frente a El Paso, Texas, y se multiplican los secuestros y las extorsiones.

"En la reunión de ayer (de ministros de seguridad) hablaron de mandar 5,000



Un soldado realiza guardia a las afueras de un hotel en la fronteriza Ciudad Juárez, México, 25 feb 2009. - El Gobierno mexicano enviará a 5,000 soldados y policías a reforzar los operativos contra el narcotráfico en la fronteriza Ciudad Juárez, atormentada por una ola de violencia de los carteles de la droga especialmente en el último año. REUTERS/Alejandro Bringas (MEXICO)

militares y policías a Ciudad Juárez. Se espera que lleguen en un par de semanas", dijo a Reuters Enrique Torres, portavoz local del Ejército.

Actualmente en Ciudad Juárez hay 2,020 soldados y 425 policías federales, precisó Torres.

La violencia en Ciudad Juárez, donde el alcalde y su familia fueron amenazados de muerte días atrás, motivó una reunión del gabinete de seguridad del presidente Felipe Calderón el miércoles, en medio de amenazas de bomba, una en el aeropuerto y otra en un puente

fronterizo. de bomba, esta vez en el diario local El Heraldo, ubicado en la

## Secretario OEA en misión para acercar a Ecuador y Colombia

QUITO (AP) - El presidente ecuatoriano Rafael Correa expuso las repercusiones del conflicto colombiano al secretario general de la OEA José Miguel Insulza quien visita este país andino como parte de los esfuerzos del organismo continental para lograr un acercamiento entre los gobiernos de Quito y Bogotá.

Los dos países mantienen rotas sus relaciones desde hace casi un año tras la incursión armada colombiana del 1 de marzo a territorio ecuatoriano para atacar un campamento de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), lo que fue considerado por Ecuador como una violación a su soberanía.

En una breve declaración a la prensa tras su encuentro con Correa y antes con el canciller Fander Falconí, Insulza dijo que conversó con el mandatario ecuatoriano de varios temas incluidas la situación económica global y las relaciones entre Ecuador y Colombia.

Confirmó que el viernes tiene previsto recorrer la zona costera de la frontera, la provincia de Esmeraldas, y que el presidente Correa "quería explicarme bien la zona del país a la cual voy a visitar mañana... exponerme la situación allá, me explicó bien la situación de esa zona, los problemas que ahí se viven".

ciudad de Chihuahua, capital del estado homónimo, al sur de Ciudad Juárez.

La policía evacuó las oficinas del periódico después de que un hombre habló por teléfono avisando que habían sido colocadas dos bombas. La amenaza resultó ser falsa. "Podría haber sido otro intento de parte del crimen organizado para aumentar el miedo o para distraer a la corporación", dijo a Reuters el jefe de información de El Heraldo, David Piñón. Analistas de seguridad han dicho que estos efectivos probablemente se han visto superados por el poder de narcotraficantes, que actúan a menudo aliados con policías locales.

El Gobierno tiene desplegados cerca de 45,000 militares en todo el país, pero principalmente en estados fronterizos como Chihuahua, Baja California y Sinaloa, en la costa Pacífico. □

## Evacúan crucero italiano en Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO (AP) - Las autoridades resolvieron evacuar provisionalmente a unos 1.400 pasajeros de un crucero italiano que el jueves sufrió un principio de incendio y está inmovilizado frente a la costa uruguaya, informó a la AP el capitán de navío Alvaro Guinea.

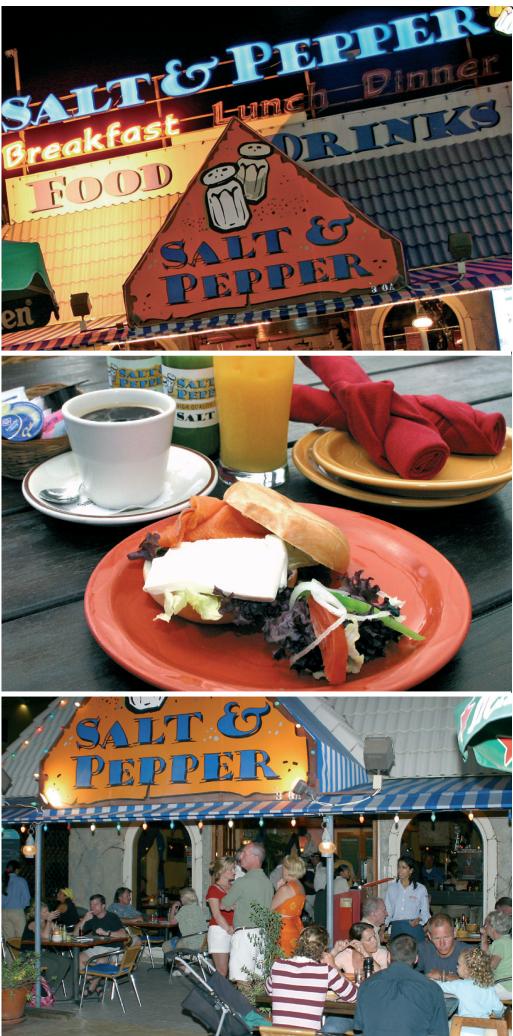
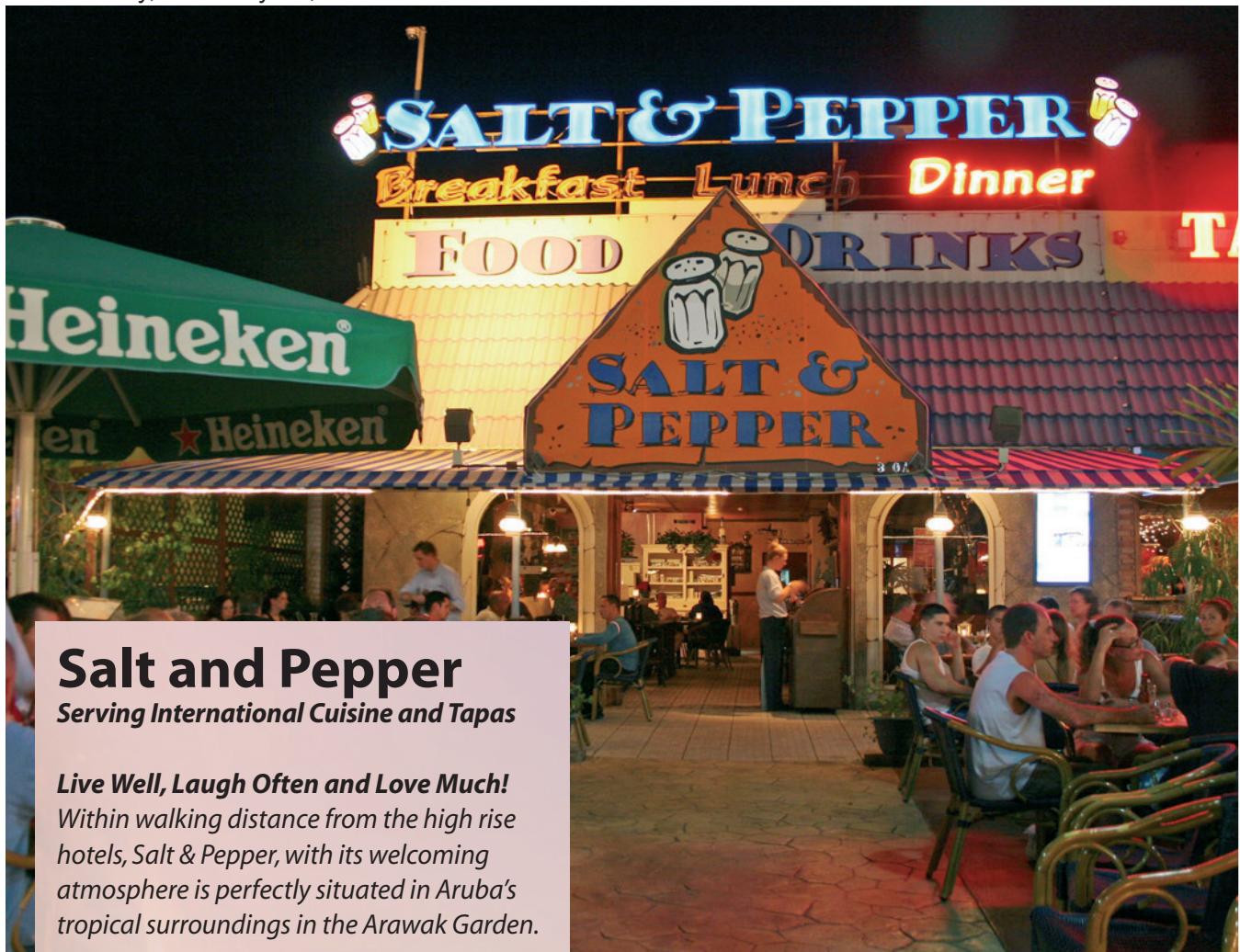
De acuerdo con los informes, hubo un incendio en un generador eléctrico de la sala de máquinas a unas siete millas marinas de la costa del puerto de Punta del Este, a 140 kilómetros de Montevideo. Guinea dijo que no hubo heridos y el fuego fue controlado por la tripulación sin inconvenientes, y aunque se trató de "una verdadera emergencia" ocurrió durante la noche "cuando los pasajeros estaban descansando y no se percataron de nada". □

No quiso hacer declaraciones sobre el ambiente que encontró para una posible reanudación de relaciones. Insulza confirmó que no viajará a Colombia porque estuvo recientemente en Pasto en un evento auspiciado por la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA). De Ecuador partirá rumbo a Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina y Brasil.

En un comunicado, la OEA dijo que Insulza analizó con las autoridades ecuatorianas "cuestiones relacionadas con la misión de buenos oficios que desarrolla la OEA en busca de un acercamiento entre Ecuador y Colombia, tras la crisis del 1 de marzo de 2008".

El canciller ecuatoriano explicó que acompañará a Insulza al recorrido por Esmeraldas para "ver in situ" las consecuencias del conflicto interno colombiano en el Ecuador. Casi medio millón de colombianos viven en el país.

Dijo que esa situación "no solo está produciendo el tema del desplazamiento de colombianos a territorio ecuatoriano sino que está provocando un desplazamiento interno de ecuatorianos" en una zona donde se ha denunciado en los últimos meses la presencia de fuerzas ilegales y actos de violencia de supuestos grupos paramilitares colombianos.



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